

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A content distribution apparatus for implementing copy protection when distributing digital content as a real-time stream on the Internet is provided. This apparatus encrypts content and distributes them to a receiving apparatus via the Internet, and performs an authentication procedure and a key exchange procedure between with the receiving apparatus. The encoded content encoded by a prescribed encoding system is encrypted, an encryption expansion header is generated that includes at least one attribute information of attribute information indicating whether or not the content is encrypted and attribute information indicating the encryption system used, transport protocol processing required to transfer the content is performed and a basic transport header is generated, a packet being sent which includes the basic transport header, the encryption expansion header, and the encrypted content.